



#### WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES IT HAVE?

Each hospital is a complete easily-transportable unit, which can be moved in one railway boxcar or two transport vans. Equipment and supplies which make up the unit are packed in colour-coded boxes according to the functional areas of the hospital. This facilitates the rapid dispersal of the boxes to various areas of the building in which the hospital will be established. There is equipment and supplies for ten wards with a total of 200 beds, three complete operating theatres, a central supply area, a pharmacy, full x-ray unit and a basic laboratory. Many of the major pieces of equipment have been especially designed for portability. Each hospital unit includes two electrical generators and a 1500 gallon emergency water tank with an electrical water pump and distribution system.

#### HOW LONG COULD AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL OPERATE?

Each emergency hospital has sufficient equipment and supplies to be completely self-supporting for seven days. A back-up supply program with equipment and supplies from the National Medical Stockpile will extend this capability to 30 days. With a constant flow of supplies these hospitals could function indefinitely.



## EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

#### WHO OPERATES THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL?

Some 260 persons are required to staff each hospital unit on a 24-hour basis. The nucleus staff requirement is about 80 persons, and would include physicians, surgeons, nurses, pharmacists, technicians and nursing assistants.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

- Assist and advise provincial and municipal health departments in emergency planning for peacetime disaster or time of war.
- Provide for the continuity of government and maintenance of health care for Canadians in times of emergency.

Published by authority of  
the Honourable John Munro  
Minister of National Health and Welfare, Canada

1963

CA) —  
HW  
- 2125  
Questions  
and Answers  
About... u/f

Government  
Publications

## THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

3 1761 11557322 2



A publication of the Department of  
National Health and Welfare, Canada



# THE EMERGENCY HOSPITAL



## WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL?

An emergency hospital is a pre-packaged medical unit containing sufficient supplies and equipment to provide good quality, but austere medical care for some two hundred seriously injured persons in times of emergency. It can be moved rapidly from a pre-positioned site and readily assembled in buildings such as high schools.

## WHY HAVE EMERGENCY HOSPITALS?

Natural disasters—explosions, floods, earthquakes and tornadoes—or nuclear warfare, could produce many serious injuries in a large number of the population. The emergency hospitals are designed primarily to reinforce the casualty care services provided by existing hospitals. Emergency hospitals can also

operate as completely independent units, if required.

## WHO PROVIDES EMERGENCY HOSPITALS?

The 200 emergency hospitals in Canada are part of the National Medical Stockpile developed by the Emergency Health Services Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Stockpile is valued at some \$21,000,000. Emergency hospitals are pre-positioned at strategic locations across the country for rapid deployment. Prepositioning is undertaken by co-operation with the Emergency Health Services at federal, provincial and municipal levels. The National Medical Stockpile also contains casualty collecting units, advanced treatment centres, and other medical units.

## EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

